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SIMPLIFIED SPELLING BOARD
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SIMPLIFIED SPELLINGS

A SECOND LIST

The Simplified Spelling Board was organized January 12, 1906. On March 21, 1906, it publisht a "List of common words now spelled in two or more ways." This list became known as the Three Hundred Words. It was not a list of new spellings, but was confined, as the title said, to words already "spelled in two or more ways." The persons interested were askt to examin the list, and, if they preferred the simpler forms, to sign a card agreeing to use them, as far as might be practicable.

This "first step" was taken in order to ascertain how far the public would go in supporting the principle and practis of simplified spelling and in approving the purposes of the Board. The step aroused great interest. Some twenty thousand persons, including many thousand teachers, have signed the card. Many of these adherents are using other simplified spellings far in advance of the easy lesson of the Three Hundred Words.

With this public support the Board felt justified in proposing a Second List of simpler spellings. It was decided that this Second List should comprize a selection of the more difficult and anomalous forms, simplified, and also certain classes of words simplified by general rules.

The Executiv Committee, after much deliberation and correspondence, prepared such a list and such rules, and submitted them to the members of the Board, who gave their votes upon each word and each rule separately. By a rule adopted at the first annual meeting, every proposal for simplification must be approved by two-thirds of the members before it can be promulgated.

In the mean time, according to an agreement reacht at the same annual meeting, April, 1907, steps were taken to establish an Advisory Council, to which should be referred for its opinion all proposals of simplification. The intention was to widen the field of available expert opinion, and to secure the approval and cooperation of an increast proportion of the scholars and educators specially interested in the problem. The list of members of the Council is contained in Circular No. 17.

The voting of the Board was practically completed in the fall of 1907; but the result was withheld until the Council could be constituted, and its opinion also obtained.

The Board now publishes a Second List of amended spellings that have been approved, with substantial unanimity, by the Board and the Council. A very few simplified spellings which were approved by the statutory two-thirds have been withheld at the request of the minority, for further consideration.

These simplified forms not only have the now declared sanction of nearly all the two hundred educators, philologists, men of science, men of letters and men of affairs, who constitute the Board and the Council, and who have carefully considered the forms with the desire to effect a beneficial change with the least disturbance of custom and convenience, but they will have the support and approval of the many thousand other adherents of the cause who have repeatedly recommended, and have been awaiting, an advance along these lines of simplification. To this living sanction, given upon scientific and practical grounds, must be added the historic sanction of the long line of great authors who used such forms as a part of the customary rule and analogy of English spelling, before it became stereotyped by printers.

This circular is spelled in accordance with the simplifications recommended. It will be seen that the amount of change in any one paragraf is still very small. The printed page has become in no way strange in appearance. On the other hand, the simplifications included represent a substantial gain in the direction of historical propriety, scientific regularity and practical economy. It will readily appear, to any one who will candidly examin the matter, that in the majority of these cases, the simplified form is not only the simplest and most accurate notation for present use, but is also a restoration of a former and preferable usage. If any inconsistencies remain, they belong, not to the simplifications proposed, but to the old spelling not yet simplified.

The Second List, here printed, consists first of a selected list of 75 amended spellings (I), and of six classified lists coming under two broad general rules (II, III). The selected list is alfabetic, but each form follows a rule which is indicated by a number referring to a paragraf at the end of the list, in which other words of the same group are mentioned, reasons for the change given, and authorities cited. In like manner the general rules and their subdivisions are followed by lists or examples of the words affected, and by similar notes.

The acceptance of the simplified spelling of a given word carries with it, of course, the same spelling in inflected, derived, or associated forms; thus, *ake, aking,* etc., *alfabet, alfabetic,* etc., *bild, bilt,* etc., *fotograf, fotografy,* etc., *sent, sented,* etc.

I. SELECTED LIST OF AMENDED SPELLINGS

ake	ache 1	harang	harangue 12
aile	aisle 2	hight	height 20
agast	aghast 3	indetted	indebted 16
alfabet	alphabet 4	iland	island 2
autograf	autograph 4	ile	isle 2
autum	autumn 5	lam	lamb 15
bedsted	bedstead 6	leag	league 12
bibliografy	bibliography 4	lim	limb 15
biografy	biography 4	num	numb 15
boro	borough 7	pamflet	pamphlet 4
bild	build 8	paragraf	paragraph 4
bilding	building 8	fonetic	phonetic 4
campain	campaign 9	fonograf	phonograph 4
camfor	camphor 4	fotograf	photograph 4
quire	choir 10	tisic	phthisic 21
cifer	cipher 4	tisis	phthisis 21
coco	cocoa 11	procede	proceed 18
colleag	colleague 12	redout	redoubt 16
colum	column 5	redoutable	redoubtable 16
condit	conduit 8	redouted	redoubted 16
counterfit	counterfeit 13	sent	scent 22
curteous	courteous 14	sion	scion 22
curtesy	courtesy 14	sissors	scissors 22
crum	crumb 15	sithe	scythe 22
det	debt 16	siv	sieve 23
dettor	debtor 16	slight	sleight 20
diafram	diaphragm 4, 9	solem	solemn 5
dout	doubt 16	soveren	sovereign 9
dum	dumb 15	succede	succeed 18
eg	egg 17	surfit	surfeit 13
excede	exceed 18	telegraf	telegraph 4
foren	foreign 9	telefone	telephone 4
forfit	forfeit 13	thum	thumb 15
furlo	furlough 7	tung	tongue 12
gastly	ghastly 3	wier	weir 24
gost	ghost 3	wierd	weird 24
gard	guard 19	yoman	yeoman 25
gardian	guardian 19		

NOTES ON THE WORDS OF THE LIST

The following brief notes are intended to indicate the reasons for the proposed adoption or restoration of the simpler spellings mentioned. The references are chiefly to standard writers. In every case, when a name is mentioned as authority, the exact reference to book, date, page, line, can be given, or the whole quotation supplied. The references can be multiplied to any extent.

1. ACHE. The verb is properly *ake*, from Anglo-Saxon *acan*, like *bake* from Anglo-Saxon *bacan*. The noun from this verb was formerly *ache*, Middle English *ache*, *eche*, Anglo-Saxon *æce*, *ece*. This *ache*, which was also spelled *atche* and *ach*, was pronounced, in Shakespeare's time, like the name of the letter H, that is to say, âtsh (ahtsh) or ê̂tsh (riming with *batch* prolonged); plural *aches* (âtshez, ê̂tshez), in two syllables. The noun *ache* is to the verb *ake* as *batch* is to *bake*, as *breach* is to *break*, as *speech* is to *speak*, etc. This noun *ache*, now pronounced êtsh, still exists in dialect use, spelled *ache* or *aitch*, but in the common speech, a new noun, pronounced like the verb, has come into use, and should, of course, be spelled in the same way, namely *ake*. In the northern English dialects the noun *ake* is ancient.

The verb is spelled *ake* by Chaucer, J. Heywood, Baret, Spenser, Shakespeare, Sylvester, Camden, Howell, Butler, Bunyan—indeed by every writer before the eighteenth century; and by Prior, Pope, Richardson and many others since. The present spelling *ache*, for the noun and verb *ake*, depends on a false derivation from the Greek.

2. AISLE, ISLE, ISLAND. (*a*) *Aisle, aile.* The original is the Latin *ala*, a wing, hence a side, etc. This became Old French *ele*, whence Middle English *ele*, *eyle*, which became confused with an other word, namely, Middle English *ile*, *yle*, island, and was spelled and pronounced in the same way. The original *ile*, *yle* (ILE[1]), from Old French *ile* (modern French *île*), from Latin *insula*, island, was later often spelled *isle* (ISLE[1]), with an *s* inserted, in imitation of a similar fashion in French. Then the other *ile*, *yle* (ILE[2]), originally *ele*, was also written *isle* (ISLE[2]), tho *ile* remained thruout the eighteenth century (Pope, J. Warton, Entick, Perry, etc.). Meantime the Old French *ele*, altered to *aele*, to make it look like the Latin *ala*, became modern French *aile*, which some English writers, in the eighteenth century, adopted as *aile* (pronounced eil or êl). Then this *aile* was mixt with the false *isle* of the same sense (ISLE[2]), producing *aisle*, with the pronunciation that belongs to the earlier form *ile* (ILE[2]).

(*b*) *Isle, ile.* The Old French *ile* produced Middle English *ile*, *yle*, modern English *ile* (ILE[1]). The spelling *ile* is in Spenser, Shakespeare, Stow, Florio, Sylvester, Ben Jonson, Niccols, Milton, Howell, and the rest. But the form *isle* at length prevailed. We should restore the normal form, as the French have done (modern French *île*). In the earliest Old French the word was actually *isle* (with *s* pronounced).

(*c*) *Island, iland.* The word was Anglo-Saxon *îgland*, *îegland*, in Middle English *iland*, *yland*, *ylond*, whence the modern English *iland* (in Shakespeare, Stow, Raleigh, Milton, Sir Thomas Browne, Howell, Walton, Gale, Mitford, etc.). Some thought the word was connected with *ile*, *isle*, and therefore wrote *ile-land*, *isle-land*, and *island*. Restore *iland*.

3. AGHAST, GHASTLY, GHOST. Late in the fifteenth century the *h* was needlessly inserted into the regular English form *gost* (Anglo-Saxon *gâst*) by Caxton, after a Dutch fashion which was later abandoned (Dutch *gheest*, later *geest*). Much later the *h* was thrust into *agast* and *gastly*, and often in other words. The result was an awkward squad of *gh-* words—*aghast*, *ghast*, *ghastful*, *ghastly*, *ghess*, *ghest*, *ghuest*, *ghittar*, *ghittern*, *ghizzard*, *ghoos*, *ghees*, *ghospel*, *ghossip*, *ghost*, *ghostly*, and later *gherkin*, *ghirkin* (for *gerkin*, properly *gurkin*). In Italian 'hard' *g* before *e* or *i* is written *gh*, in French *gu*; but these devices are not needed in English. *Agast* is in Spenser, Milton, Butler, etc., *gastly* in Sackville, Spenser, Niccols, etc.

4. ALPHABET, AUTOGRAPH, BIBLIOGRAPHY, BIOGRAPHY, CAMPHOR, CIPHER, DIAPHRAGM, PAMPHLET, PARAGRAPH, PHONETIC, PHONOGRAPH, PHOTOGRAPH, TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE. The substitution of *f* for *ph* is a simplification that ought to be made in all words containing *ph* in that value. At present the Board confines its recommendations to these few familiar words, some of them much used in business, and therefore calling for simplification on practical grounds of economy and convenience. Any one who chooses to do so may properly extend the simplification to all words of the class. All such words are spelled in Spanish, Italian, Icelandic, Danish, Swedish, Polish, Bohemian, Hungarian, Finnish, etc., with *f* (*alfabeto*, *alfabet*, etc.), and such of them as existed in Late Latin or Middle Latin were then commonly spelled with *f*. Here is a short list of Late or Middle Latin forms, with corresponding English forms: *Alfabetum* ALFABET, *cifra* CIFER, *diafragma* DIAFRAM, *panfletus* PAMFLET, *paragrafus* PARAGRAF (formerly *paragraff*, *paragrafe*, *paraffe*); *aforismus* AFORISM, *antifrasis* ANTIFRASIS, *asfaltus* ASFALT,

asfodelus ASFODEL (also *affodillus* AFFODIL, DAFFODIL), *blasfemia* BLASFEMY, *chirografus* CHIROGRAF, *cofinus* COFFIN, COFFER, *elefas* ELEFANT, *epitafium* EPITAF, *falanx* FALANX, *fantasia* FANTASY, FANCY, *fantasma* FANTASM, FANTOM, *fantasticus* FANTASTIC, *farmacia* FARMACY, *fasianus* FEASANT, FESANT, *fenix* FENIX, *fiala* FIAL, VIAL, *filologus* FILOLOG(IST), *filosofia* FILOSOFY, *filosofus* FILOSOF(ER), *fisica* FYSIC, FYSICS, *fisicus* FYSIC(IAN), *fisiologus* FYSIOLOG(IST), *flebotomus* FLEAM, *flegma* FLEGM, *frenesis* FRENZY, *freneticus* FRENETIC, FRANTIC, *metafora* METAFOR, *parafernalia* PARAFERNALIA, *periferia* PERIFERY, *perifrasis* PERIFRASIS, PERIFRASE, *profeta* PROFET, *profetia* PROFECY, *sarcofagus* SARCOFAGUS, *sifon* SIFON, etc. Such words past into the medieval and modern European languages, including Anglo-Saxon and Middle English, with *f*; but in modern English, as well as in French and German, the classical Latin *ph* has been mostly 'restored.' Many English words, however, retained the *f* until the end of the sixteenth century or later, as *fesant, filosofie, fisike, fisician, fisonomy, pamflet, paragraff, profet,* etc., and occasionally *alfabet*; and others retain the *f* to this day, as *coffer, coffin, daffodil, fancy, fantastic, fantasy, fleam, frantic, frenzy, frieze* (in architecture), and sometimes *fantasm, fantom, flebotomy, flegm.* The Greek sign is a single letter (Φ), which is quite as well transliterated by *f* as it is by *ph.* The *ph* is a Latin transcription of a rare and dialectal Greek notation (ΠΗ) of the original aspirated *p*, and is properly used with this value in the transliteration of certain Sanskrit and other non-Roman letters.

5. AUTUMN, COLUMN, SOLEMN. The *n*, tho pronounced in the Latin originals (*autumnus, columna, solemnis, solennis*), is not now pronounced in English. It belongs to the lost final syllable *-ne* (in the older *autumne,* etc.), and should be omitted. Of course, the derivates *autumnal, columnar, solemnize,* etc., retain their spelling.

6. BEDSTEAD. *Bedsted* here, like *stedfast* in the Three Hundred Words, is adopted as an example (Sylvester, Swift) of the simplification that must at some time be adopted thruout in the words (*bread, breast, head, health,* etc.) having *ea* now pronounced as short *e.* An other example is *insted* (Spenser, Shakespeare, etc.), or, it being really two words, *in sted.* So *in its sted.*

7. BOROUGH, FURLOUGH. The simplification to *boro* in local names ending in *borough* has been in use for more than three hundred years: *Scarboro, Edinboro,* even *Edinbro* and *Embro,* etc. The spelling *Edinburgh* is archaic and does not answer to the pronunciation. The simplified form *boro* has been officially adopted

by the United States Board on Geographic Names. *Boro* is parallel to *thoro* for *thorough* (as in the Three Hundred Words). The word *furlough* has no right to the *gh,* even as a dead relic. The Dutch original, *verlof,* 'leave' (cognate with English *leave*), got into English military use (1620–1650) in several inaccurate forms, *vorloffe, foreloofe, forloff, furloff*; the *ff* was then written by some with *gh*; the resultant form *furlogh, furlough,* was then by others supposed to have the *gh* 'silent' (its finest function), as in *borough, thorough,* and was pronounced accordingly; and some wrote it accordingly, *furlow, furloe, furlo.*

8. BUILD, BUILDING, CONDUIT. The words *build, building* had in early Middle English two principal pronunciations, one with i spelled *i* or *y,* and the other, the earlier one, with the umlaut, spelled *u,* sometimes *ui,* and represented in Anglo-Saxon by *y,* and in modern German by *ue* or *ü.* To the same class belonged the two words of which one retains a Middle English spelling *busy,* and the other has acquired the modern spelling *dizzy. Conduit* is of foren origin (Middle English *condit, condyt, condut,* Old French *conduit,* Latin *conductus*), and was commonly spelled *condit* or *cundit* in the sixteenth century.

9. CAMPAIGN, FOREIGN, SOVEREIGN, DIAPHRAGM. The *g* is needless and should be omitted. *Campaign* is modern. Mitford has *campain. Diaphragm* should follow *apophthegm, apothegm* and drop the *g.* The other words are old, and in their normal forms did not have the *g.* The earlier spellings (with or without final *e,* and with either *i* or *y* in the diphthong) were *forein* or *forain, soverein* or *soverain.* The normal form is now *foren* (tho a more exact form, in respect to the present pronunciation, is *forin*). The present normal spelling of *sovereign* is *soveren,* (or, more exactly, *soverin*). The spelling *sovran,* used by Milton, and by some writers after him (J. Phillips, Lamb, Hare, Dobson), imitates the Italian form *sovrano. Soprano,* from Italian *soprano,* is in origin the same word.

10. CHOIR. The spelling *choir* (Stevens 1706, Bailey 1733) for *quire* is one of the worst spellings in the English language. It is a blundering mixture of the modern French spelling *chœur* with the real English spelling *quire. Quire* was the regular form in early modern English, is found in Shakespeare, Milton, Walton, Cowley, Dryden, Addison, Pope, Tennyson, and other writers, and is still retained in the English Book of Common Prayer.

11. COCOA. There are two different words concerned. (*a*) COCOA[1], the fruit of a palm-tree, *Cocos nucifera.* The correct spelling is *coco* (COCO[1]), from Portuguese and Spanish *coco.* The

spelling *coco* (sometimes *coquo*) appears in the early books of travel (Hawkins, Hakluyt, Purchas, Sir Thomas Herbert, Dampier, Harris, etc.), and was used by Steele, and other writers. Dr. Johnson, following a current error (Thomson, etc.), confused the two words in his dictionary (1755) under the one form *cocoa*; and other dictionaries continued the error. But *coco*, with *coco-nut*, *coco-tree*, etc., has, nevertheless, always been preferred by scientific writers (Marsden, Tennent, Tylor; Yule, Balfour, etc.), is used by Tennyson, and is admitted by recent dictionaries (Century, Standard, Oxford) as more correct.

(*b*) COCOA[2], the seeds of the tropical tree, *Theobroma cacao*, and the powder, paste, and drink made from the seeds. The proper English word was, and is, *cacao*, from the Spanish *cacao*, from the Mexican name of the seeds, *cacauatl*. This word *cacao* was often misprinted (1660–1700) *cacoa*, or *cocao*, and finally became *cocoa* (COCOA[2]). Then, after corrupting the spelling of *coco* (COCO[1]), *cocoa* (COCOA[2]) took, in popular speech, the pronunciation of *coco*. *Cacao* remains chiefly as a book-word.

12. COLLEAGUE, LEAGUE, HARANGUE, TONGUE. The *ue* is useless, and should be omitted, as it has been omitted in *catalog*, *decalog*, *prolog*, *demagog*, *pedagog*, in the Three Hundred Words, and by implication in the similar forms *dialog*, *eclog*, *epilog*, *monolog*, etc. The spelling *tongue* (formerly sometimes *tungue*) is a substitution (perhaps in imitation of the French *langue*, from Latin *lingua*) for the normal spelling *tung*. The spellings *tung*, *tong*, *tonge*, *toung* (all pronounced with the vowel as in *put*), are common in early modern English. The Middle English was *tunge*, *tonge*, Anglo-Saxon *tunge* (in two syllables).

13. COUNTERFEIT, FORFEIT, SURFEIT. In these words the unstrest *ei* (formerly strest, and pronounced ei or ê) is now pronounced like short *i*, and should be so spelled, as it is in *benefit* and *comfit*, which are of like origin.

14. COURTEOUS, COURTESY. In these words, the old spelling *curt-* is still in some use. The same spelling appears in the surname *Curtis*, also spelled *Curtiss* and *Curtice*, from Middle English and Old French *curteis*, the original of *courteous*. *Curteous* and *curtesy* are in Spenser, Shakespeare, Sylvester, etc. In legal use *curtesy* is common, and in the sense of an act of respect, the spelling *curtesy* or *curtsy* is, by some dictionaries, preferred.

15. CRUMB, DUMB, LAMB, LIMB, NUMB, THUMB. The *b* is silent and ought to be omitted. Only in *dumb* and *lamb* is the *b* original. The Anglo-Saxon originals were *crûma*, *dumb*, *lamb*, *lim*, *numen*, *thûma*. The spellings *crum*, *dum*, *lim*, *num*, *thum*,

are common in books (Sackville, Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Fuller, Ray, etc.). *Crum* is preferred by some dictionaries. Every one writes *dummy* and *numskull*. *Benum* is in Sylvester.

16. DEBT, DEBTOR, DOUBT, INDEBTED, REDOUBT, REDOUBTABLE, REDOUBTED. The *b* is a sixteenth-century insertion in imitation of the *b* of the remote Latin originals. The true English spellings are *det*, *dettor* or *detter*, *dout*, *redout*, *redoutable*, *redouted*. In earlier use they were *dette*, *dettour*, *doute*, etc. *Det* is in Sackville, Spenser, Tusser, Sylvester, etc. *Dettor* is in Milton. *Detter* is in Coverdale, Latimer, Shakespeare, and the English Bible (1611). *Dout* is in Latimer, Spenser, Gale, etc.

17. EGG. This word (Middle English *eg*, *egge*) should be simplified to *eg*, in accord with *beg*, *keg*, *leg*, *peg*, etc., *big*, *dig*, *pig*, etc. *Eg* occurs in Latimer, Florio, Sylvester, and other writers.

18. EXCEED, PROCEED, SUCCEED. These three words, formerly *excede*, *procede*, *succede*, were the first of their group to come into common English use. They then past from their normal type *excede*, *procede*, *succede*, to the type with *ee*, characteristic of purely English words—*deed*, *feed*, *heed*, *seed*, etc. Thus they form an exception to the spelling of the eight other words of the group now in use, *cede*, *accede*, *antecede*, *concede*, *intercede*, *precede*, *recede*, and *secede*. It seems best to remove the ambiguity by making the irregular minority conform to the majority.

19. GUARD, GUARDIAN. The older spellings in English were *gard* (Sackville, Spenser, Shakespeare, Lodge, Howell), *gardian* (Lodge), *gardein*, etc.; Middle English *garde*, *gardein*, from Old French *garde*, *gardein*. So *regard*.

20. HEIGHT, SLEIGHT. These spellings really represent the older collateral pronunciation, riming with *eight*, *freight*, *weight*. The actual words now used are those that were formerly spelled *hight* and *slight*. These spellings should be restored.

21. PHTHISIC, PHTHISIS. These words are pronounced with the *ph* silent, and the *th* in its older pronunciation of *t* (as in *Thomas* and *thyme*) for the *th* in Latin. In Middle Latin the words were *ptisica*, *ptisis*, or more commonly *tisica*, *tisis*. The English word *phthisic* was once common in the spellings *tisick*, *tissick*, *tizzick*, etc. It is now really obsolete except as a trap for children in the spelling-class. *Phthisis* is recent, and is purely technical.

22. SCENT, SCION, SCISSORS, SCYTHE. In these, and in some other words, the *c* is a false insertion and should be dropt, as it has been dropt in similar cases, as *scite*, *scituation*, etc.

(*a*) The word *scent* was formerly *sent* (French *sentir*, from Latin *sentire*), being cognate with *assent*, *sentiment*, and *sensible*,

and was so spelled by Spenser, Shakespeare, Sylvester, Ben Jonson, Bacon, Florio, Cotgrave, Fuller and their contemporaries.

(*b*) *Scion* was formerly *sion* (Holland, Stevens), *cion*, also *sien* (Lodge, Shakespeare), *syen*, *cyen*, *sience*, *science*, etc.; Middle English *sion*, *sioun*, *cion*, *cyun*, etc., from Old French *sion*, *cion*. The present French is *scion*. The *sc-* is wrong.

(*c*) *Scissors* is a falsified spelling, imitating a Latin word *scissor*, 'one who carves.' The English word was formerly spelled in many ways, as *sisers*, *sizers*, *sizars*, *sizzers*, *cisors*, *cisers*, *cisars*, *cysers*, *cizors*, *cizers*, *cizars*, *cizzars*, *cissers*, *scissors*, *scissars*, *scizzars*, etc.; Middle English *sisoures*, *cisoures*, *cysors*, etc., from Old French *cisoires*; Middle Latin *cisorium*. The Latin root is *cis-*, *caes-*, *caed-*, to cut, not *sciss-*, *scind-*, to cleave, divide. The omission of *c* from *scissors* leaves *sissors*. The 'etymologic' spelling is *cisors*. The pure English type is *sizzers*.

(*d*) *Scythe* is a bad spelling of the regular form *sithe*, which represents the Middle English and Anglo-Saxon *sîthe*. *Sithe* is in Holland, Sylvester, Cotgrave, Milton, Ray, etc., is the dictionary form in Kersey (1708), Bailey (1733), etc., and is the very form which Dr. Johnson, in his English dictionary (1755), expressly preferred and commended. Ash (1775), Sheridan (1780), Nares (1784), also have *sithe*, and it is found in Mitford. It is one of the Three Hundred Words. Other forms were *sith* (Holland, Minsheu, Cowley), *sythe* (Shakespeare, Hooker, Herrick, Pope, etc.).

23. SIEVE. The word *sieve*, so spelled, was formerly pronounced (and is still pronounced in dialect use) sĭv, riming with *believe*, *grieve*, *relieve*, *reprieve*, *retrieve*, etc. The pronunciation with short *i*, siv, is partly due to conformity with the allied word *sift*. The word was earlier spelled *sive* (Cotgrave, Minsheu, Howell), Middle English *sive*, Anglo-Saxon *sife*. It should now be spelled *siv*.

24. WEIR, WEIRD. All the words having the digraf *ei* pronounced î call for amendment. These two words waver in spelling, and are easily restored to the normal forms *wier* and *wierd*, in accordance with the majority usage seen in *bier*, *pier*, *tier*, *fierce*, *pierce*, *tierce*, etc., as well as in *field*, *shield*, *wield*, *yield*, etc.

25. YEOMAN. There are two distinct forms of this word: *yoman* (misspelled *yeoman*), from Middle English *yoman*, and the dialectal *yeman* (also *yeaman* and *yemman*), from Middle English *yeman*. *Yoman* is the source of the surnames *Yoman*, *Yomans*, *Yeoman*, *Yeomans*, *Youman*, *Youmans*, and *yeman* is the source of the surnames *Yeman*, *Yeaman*, *Yeamans*. Swift has *yeman*, riming with *Philemon*.

II. GENERAL RULE FOR DROPPING SILENT FINAL E IN UNSTREST SYLLABLES CONTAINING I SHORT

In words of two or more syllables, ending in a short unstrest syllable consisting of a short *i* followed by a single consonant (other than *c*), and a silent *e*, drop the silent *e*.

If the single consonant is *c*, the *e* implies that *c* has the sound of *s*. It can not be omitted until *c* is displaced by *s*.

The words coming under this rule fall into several classes:

1. Words in -ILE simplified to -IL

Words ending in the suffix *-ile* (mostly from Latin *-ilis* or *-îlis*), having a short unstrest vowel *i*, and a useless final *-e*. Omit the *e*. The following are examples:

docil	docile	mercantil	mercantile
domicil	domicile	missil	missile
ductil	ductile	prehensil	prehensile
facil	facile	projectil	projectile
febril	febrile	pueril	puerile
fertil	fertile	reptil	reptile
fictil	fictile	servil	servile
fissil	fissile	steril	sterile
fragil	fragile	subtil	subtile
futil	futile	tactil	tactile
hostil	hostile	textil	textile
imbecil	imbecile	versatil	versatile
juvenil	juvenile	volatil	volatile

Many of these words were formerly often simplified to *-il*. Thus: *docil* (Cowley), *facil* (Wilkins), *fertil* (Sylvester, Evelyn), *reptil* (Milton), *servil* (Milton), *subtil* (Butler), etc.

In some words of the same class the simplification of the older *-ile* to *-il* has become universal. Thus:

April	Aprile	utensil	utensile
civil	civile	vigil	vigile
fossil	fossile		

So *codicile* (L. *codicillus*) is now *codicil*, and *domicile* (L. *domicilium*) is now often *domicil* (Three Hundred Words).

Some of these words in *-ile* are pronounced by many speakers with "long i," that is, with *i* diphthong (ai), the suffix (-ail) riming with *pile*, etc. Such are *docile*, *futile*, *hostile*, *infantile*, *juvenile*, *reptile*, *servile*, etc. Some other words, as *anile*, *gentile*, *senile*, etc.,

are so pronounced by nearly all speakers. If the *i* is not pronounced short, of course the *e* is not to be dropt. The variation exists. It must be recognized in spelling before uniformity can be attained. It is so, likewise, with the words in *-ine*.

2. Words in -INE simplified to -IN

Words ending in unstrest *-ine* pronounced -in. This *-ine* is of various origin, usually a suffix, and chiefly from Latin *-inus, -înus, -ina, -îna, -inum, -înum,* common suffixes of adjectives and derived nouns. Omit the *e*. The following are examples:

clandestin	clandestine	genuin	genuine
destin	destine	heroin	heroine
determin	determine	illumin	illumine
disciplin	discipline	imagin	imagine
doctrin	doctrine	intestin	intestine
engin	engine	masculin	masculine
ermin	ermine	medicin	medicine
examin	examine	rapin	rapine
famin	famine	sanguin	sanguine
feminin	feminine	turbin	turbine

Many of these simplifications were formerly in use, as *determin* (Fuller), *doctrin* (Milton, Fuller), *engin* (Surrey, Sylvester, Howell), *examin* (Milton, Wilkins, Burnet), *famin* (Sylvester, Milton), *feminin* (Cotgrave), *imagin* (Latimer, Sylvester), etc.

In other words of the same kind the former *-ine* has become *-in* exclusivly. Such are the following:

assassin	assassine	resin	resine
cabin	cabine	ruin	ruine
Latin	Latine	savin	savine
margin	margine	seizin	seizine
origin	origine	vermin	vermine
ravin	rávine	virgin	virgine

Some of the above and many other words in *-ine* are also pronounced with "long i," that is, with the diphthong ai, the suffix (-ain) then riming with *pine*, etc. Such are *adamantine, carmine, crystalline, palatine, pristine,* etc., and sometimes *engine, genuine,* etc. Some are nearly always pronounced with -ain, as *aquiline, bovine, feline,* etc. In words so pronounced, the *-e* is not to be dropt. The chemical terms in *-ine* or *-in* require special treatment.

3. Words in -ISE simplified to -IS

There are very few words ending in unstrest *-ise* pronounced *-is*. The *-ise* is in most cases not a suffix. Drop the *e*.

anis	anise	premis	premise
mortis	mortise	promis	promise
practis	practise	treatis	treatise

It would be proper to change unstrest *-ice* to *-ise*, and thence to *-is*. Words like *coppice, crevice, lattice, service,* etc., were formerly often spelled *coppis, crevis, lattis, servis,* etc.

4. Words in -ITE simplified to -IT

Words ending in unstrest *-ite*, pronounced -it. This termination *-ite* is mostly from the Latin participial suffix *-itus* or *-îtus*. *Favorite* and *granite* are (like *bandit*) from the Italian (*-ito*). In *hypocrite* and *respite* the *-ite* is not a suffix. Omit the *e*.

apposit	apposite	indefinit	indefinite
composit	composite	infinit	infinite
definit	definite	opposit	opposite
exquisit	exquisite	perquisit	perquisite
favorit	favorite	preterit	preterite
granit	granite	requisit	requisite
hypocrit	hypocrite	respit	respite

Definit is in Shakespeare, *infinit* is in Latimer, Shakespeare, Hooker, Sylvester, Holland, Selden, Bacon, Milton, etc., *opposit* is in Berners, Lyly, Shakespeare, Sylvester and Bunyan, *respit* is in Hooker, and *preterit* is now familiar (Three Hundred Words).

The following words, now always spelled with *-it*, were formerly spelled regularly with *-ite*:

audit	audite	illicit	illicite
cohabit	cohabite	implicit	implicite
credit	credite	inhabit	inhabite
cubit	cubite	inherit	inherite
decrepit	decrepite	inhibit	inhibite
demerit	demerite	limit	limite
deposit	deposite	merit	merite
discredit	discredite	prohibit	prohibite
elicit	elicite	reposit	reposite
exhibit	exhibite	solicit	solicite
explicit	explicite	spirit	spirite
habit	habite	visit	visite
hermit	hermite	vomit	vomite

Was it not an improvement to drop the silent *e* in these words? In some words only *-it* appears, as *adit, exit, posit, tacit, transit.* So *-ide* has become *-id,* as in *acide, acid, solide, solid.*

5. Words in -IVE, simplified to -IV

There are in English more than six hundred words ending in *-ive,* unstrest. The majority are bookish or technical. With few exceptions the termination is the suffix *-ive,* representing the Latin *-îvus,* m., *-îva,* f., *-îvum,* n. The suffix was in Middle English *-if, -ive* (-îf, -îv); French *-if,* m., *-ive,* f.

It is to be noted that all these words would now be spelled without the silent *e,* if it had not happened that the discrimination of the square and triangular forms of the small or non-capital u or v took place after the sweeping omission of the silent *e* in other words (*arte, harde, terme, penne, sette,* etc.), at the end of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth centuries, had spent its force. The u and v were forms of one letter, both being called *u* (that is, iu or yu), and both being used as vowel or consonant. The triangular form v was used, for vowel or consonant, at the beginning of words, as *vse, vain,* and the square form u, for vowel or consonant, in the middle, as *rule, ruin, reuiue, liue, saue,* etc. But in the generation beginning about the year 1600 a few reformers (Holland, 1601, 1609; Sylvester, 1608; Bishop Montagu, 1625, and others, or their printers) began to use u for the vowel in all positions and v for the consonant in all positions, and to make a similar discrimination of the short letter i (i) and long letter i (j), using the latter (j) as a consonant only. This reform was ignored by most writers and printers for thirty years; but about 1630 it began to be rapidly accepted, so that it would be hard to find any books printed later than 1635 without the discrimination of u and v, and of i and j. But until this discrimination of u and v was made, the consonant u could not well be left at the end of the word (as *actiu, liu, deceiu,* etc.), and so the *e* was retained. Selden (1614), however, has *beleeu, beleeu'd, liu'd,* etc. When the discrimination was completed, the impulse to omit the useless silent *e* had spent its force; and tho some writers and printers tried (1640–1680) to use *activ, liv, deceiv* (Fuller), *behoovs* (Milton), *behoovful* (Wilkins), *twelv* (Fuller), etc., the practis did not extend, and the silent *e* after *v* has waited until the present day for its happy dispatch.

A full list of the words ending in the unstrest suffix *-ive* would be very long. Most of them are bookish. A few examples are given here in the simplified form. The rule is easily applied.

activ	defensiv	inclusiv	passiv
adjectiv	definitiv	indicativ	positiv
affirmativ	demonstrativ	inductiv	productiv
aggressiv	detectiv	infinitiv	progressiv
attentiv	distinctiv	lucrativ	relativ
captiv	executiv	motiv	sensitiv
comparativ	exclusiv	nativ	subjectiv
conclusiv	expressiv	negativ	superlativ
deductiv	imitativ	objectiv	transitiv
defectiv	impressiv	oppressiv	vindictiv

III. GENERAL RULE FOR WORDS IN -ED PRONOUNCED -T

For *-ed* pronounced -t in preterits and perfect participles (and participial adjectivs) of English verbs that end, in the infinitiv, in certain non-sonant consonants, as *k* (*c, ck*), *p, f* (*ff*), *s* (*ss*), *sh, ch* or *tch* (*tsh*), etc., substitute or restore *-t.*

The original suffix *-ed* in such cases lost in pronunciation its weak vowel, and the *d* being thus spoken immediately after the non-sonant consonant, became itself non-sonant, that is, it became, as spoken, *t,* and the forms were spelled accordingly, some from Anglo-Saxon times (*kept, kist, mist,* etc.), others from Middle English times (*clapt, crept, lost,* etc.), and many others in modern times, with *-t.*

There are more than 900 preterits and participles in *-ed* pronounced -t. Only a few examples are here given. The spelling with *-t* was customary in the period from Spenser and Shakespeare to Addison and Pope, and is found in great abundance since. See Circular No. 15, p. 15, 16.

Of course, when the vowel of *-ed* is not lost, the *-ed* retains its proper sound, as in many participial adjectives, as *blessed, cursed, crooked, peaked,* etc., when pronounced in two syllables.

Verbs that end in *-ce* (*-ace, -ice, -ance, -ence,* etc.) in the infinitiv can not have the *d* in the preterit ending *-ced* simplified to *t,* because the resultant sequence *-ct* would be abnormal for the sound intended; for example, *faced* would be *fact, placed plact, danced danct,* etc. Nothing can be done to simplify these words in modern English until the *c* is changed to *s.* This use of *s* was formerly common. Spenser and his contemporaries often used *fast* or *faste, plast* or *plaste, danst* or *daunst,* etc.

The *-ed* can not be spelled *-t* when the infinitiv contains a long vowel written *a..e* (*bake*), *e..e* (*eke*), *i..e* (*dike*), *o..e* (*choke*), *u..e* (*dupe*), etc. Forms like *bakt, dikt,* etc., would be impracticable.

The Three Hundred Words include some seventy examples of preterits and participles in *-ed* spelled *-t*. As further examples of the great number, the following are given. In every case high literary authority can be cited for the simplified forms.

accomplisht	accomplished	napt	napped
annext	annexed	packt	packed
askt	asked	perplext	perplexed
attacht	attached	practist	practised
banisht	banished	promist	promised
capt	capped	pusht	pushed
ceast	ceased	publisht	published
checkt	checked	quencht	quenched
chipt	chipped	reacht	reached
chopt	chopped	remarkt	remarked
condenst	condensed	represt	repressed
decreast	decreased	riskt	risked
demolisht	demolished	rockt	rocked
distinguisht	distinguished	snatcht	snatched
elapst	elapsed	stampt	stamped
equipt	equipped	starcht	starched
establisht	established	thankt	thanked
finisht	finished	vanisht	vanished
helpt	helped	walkt	walked
lackt	lacked	witnest	witnessed
markt	marked	worshipt	worshipped

An alfabetic list of all the simplified forms recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board, including the Three Hundred Words, this Second List, and other words of the same classes requiring the same simplification, will be publisht in due time, after it has been approved by the Board and the Council.

All who read this circular are invited to sign the card of agreement and mail it, as addrest, to the Simplified Spelling Board, 1 Madison avenue, New York. The agreement commits the signer to nothing more than a general approval of the principle of simplified spelling, and of the practis so far as he may find it convenient. Signers will receive the subsequent publications of the Board, will be kept informed of the progress of the movement, and, if they are so disposed, may take an activ part in the work.

THE SIMPLIFIED SPELLING BOARD

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